

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3757

USNMR SHAPE

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USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1162

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: IMPACT OF CURRENT POL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES -
DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING FEB 28, 1974

REF: STATE 36626

SUMMARY: AT DPC MEETING FEB 28 PERMREPS ACCEPTED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT ON IMPACT OF OIL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES WHILE ASKING FOR MORE DETAILS OF ITS EFFECT ON MILITARY OPERATIONS. INCREASING OIL COSTS, MILITARY CONSUMPTION, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND IMPACT OF A CURTAILED EXERCISE PROGRAM WERE HIGHLIGHTED. WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND BALANCED EXERCISES NATO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND DETERRENT EFFECT WILL SUFFER. END SUMMARY

1. WHILE ASKING DPC TO NOTE MILITARY DECISION TAKEN IN MCM-8-74, LUNS ECPHASIZED THE IMPLICATIONS A CURTAILED EXERCISE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE ON NATO MILITARY DETERRENT CAPABILITY. THE SYG CITED THE SMALL PERCENTAGE OF MILITARY
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OIL CONSUMPTION AS A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR CONTINUING A BALANCED NATO EXERCISE PROGRAM. GOVTS IN CAPITALS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS FACT. LUNS FURTHER URGED THAT COUNTRIES ASSESS THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF

RISING FUEL COST ON NATIONAL ECONOMIES AND ITS IMPLICATION
ON FUTURE MILITARY BUDGETS.

2. REFERRING TO SACEUR'S REPORT ON ARGUS EXPRESS, ACTING
CHAIRMAN MC (MINTER) UNDERScoreD SACEUR CONCERN OVER CUR-
TAILING THE ALLIED MOBILE FORCE EXERCISES. FUTURE OIL COST
IS THE GREATEST UNCERTAINTY IN ASSESSING FUTURE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE OIL SHORTAGE.

3. RECALLING US INITIATIVE TO OBTAIN AN ASSESSMENT ON
IMPACT OF OIL SHORTAGE ON NATO EXERCISE PROGRAM LAST
NOV, US REP (RUMSFELD) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF FUL-
FILLING EXERCISE COMMITMENTS. STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

AS I RECALL WE ASKED BACK IN NOVEMBER FOR AN ASSESSMENT
OF THE IMPACT OF THE OIL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES.
WHILE ACCEPTING THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE
IMPACT OF THE OIL SHORTAGE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
WOULD LIKE TO UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE
COMMITTEE'S REQUEST THAT NATIONS NOTIFY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE
AND MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF POTENTIAL
DIFFICULTIES IN FULFILLING COMMITMENTS TO SCHEDULED EXER-
CISES. IN LIGHT OF THE GREAT VALUE OF EXERCISES TO MILITARY
PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS, WE FEEL AN EFFECTIVE EXERCISE
PROGRAM MUST CONTINUE FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY
REASON. ON THE OTHER HAND, MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST
INITIATE A CONTINUOUS REVIEW OF NATO EXERCISES IN ORDER TO
BALANCE NECESSARY CUTS IN POL CONSUMPTION WITH THE NEEDED
LEVEL OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

THE REPORT LACKS DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO IMPACT THUS FAR
AND THAT ANTICIPATED. I RECOGNIZE DPC NEED NOT GET INTO GETAILS
OF EXERCISE PLANNING, BUT I DON'T HAVE A VERY GOOD IDEA FROM THE
REPORT OF WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CURTAILED OR WILL BE CURTA-
ILED. THE GUIDELINES ARE USEFUL BUT DO NOT PROVIDE PICTURE OF
THE SITUATION. END QUOTE

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4. ADM MINTER SAID THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD PROVIDE
DETAILS ON CURTAILED MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

5. WHILE AGREEING WITH GUIDELINES, UK REP (PECK) EMPHASIZED
THE NEED FOR ALLIES TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF
SHARING OIL DURING EXERCISES. HE FURTHER OUTLINED UK POLICY
OF ASSIGNING PRIORITIES BETWEEN ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL
ACTIVITIES. NATO EXERCISES FALL IN ESSENTIAL CATEGORY. UK
STATEMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. RUMSFELD

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